

REMARKS

Title

A new title has been provided, that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims

The claims have been amended to distinguish the invention more clearly from the cited references. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to clarify which of the various method steps are performed within the server and which are performed in the remote device, and to specify more clearly what information and messages are transmitted between the server and the remote device.

Saarinen (USP 6,697,483) describes a method and apparatus for searching a database, such as an electronic phonebook in a cellular phone. The method comprises defining a search template, and identifying the set of distinct data strings that commence with the template. The user can select one of these strings as the new search template. If the number of names matching the new search template is less than some predefined number, those names are displayed, and the user can select one. If not, the process is repeated, using the new extended template.

However, there is clearly no suggestion in Saarinen of holding the database in a server, remote from the cellular phone, and no suggestion of any interaction between the cellular phone and such a server to search the database. Hence, it is clear that Saarinen does not teach or suggest the sequence of method steps, involving processing in a server and a remote device and messages between them as specified in claim 1.

Van Ee (USP Application No. 2002/0030699) teaches using a wireless device to access data from a remote computer. However, as with the Saarinen reference, there is clearly no suggestion of the sequence of method steps as claimed in the amended claim 1, and so it is clear that even if the teachings of these two references were combined, they would not suggest the sequence of steps of the invention to a person skilled in the art.

Therefore, it is believed that the invention as claimed in the amended claim 1 is clearly patentably distinguished from the Saarinen and Van Ee references, whether considered individually or in combination.

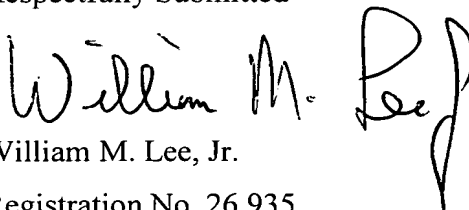
The other independent claim (9) is similar to claim 1 except that it defines the invention from the point of view of the server, i.e. it defines the steps performed by the server, and the information and messages transmitted to and received from the remote device. It is therefore believed that this claim is patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

In summary, it is submitted that this application is now clearly in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", with a stylized, elongated "Jr." at the end.

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